

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1-7 stand rejected. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject with the amendment of claim 1. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter set forth in the Office Action and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 as suggested by the Examiner. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter set forth in the Office action and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over by U.S. Patent No. 2,665,731 (“Slezak 1”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 493,220 (“Palmer”), U.S. Patent No. 2,754,876 (“King”), and U.S. Patent No. 3,129,743 (“Nonnamaker”), or alternatively U.S. Patent No. 2,665,732 (“Slezak 2”) in view of Palmer, King, and Nonnamaker.

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over by U.S. Patent Slezak 1 in view of Palmer, King, and Nonnamaker and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,832,102 (“Domchick”), or alternatively Slezak 2 in view of Palmer, King, and Nonnamaker and further in view of Domchick.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over by U.S. Patent Slezak 1 in view of Palmer, King, and Nonnamaker and further in view of JP 2002-120526 A, or

alternatively Slezak 2 in view of Palmer, King, and Nonnamaker and further in view of JP 2002-120526 A.

Applicants disagree that Slezak 1, Slezak 2, Palmer, King, Nonnamaker, Domchick, and JP 2002-120526 A render the pending claims unpatentable, whether taken alone or in combination. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this matter, Applicants have incorporated the allowable subject matter recited in the Office Action into claim 1. As such, pending claims 1-7 are deemed allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 503111.

Respectfully submitted,
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